

50. A method according to claim 49 wherein the agent is capable of blocking an IgE mediated response.

51. A method according to claim 49 wherein the agent exhibits GM1 binding activity, or has an effect on GM1 mediated intracellular signalling events, but no GM1 binding activity.

52. A method according to claim 51 wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of Etx, Ctx, CtxB, EtxB, and mutants or derivatives thereof that bind to GM1.

53. A method according to claim 52 wherein the agent is EtxB.

54. A method according to claim 53 which is a treatment for asthma.

55. A method according to claim 52 wherein the agent is CtxB.

56. A method for treating a subject for an allergic or hypersensitivity condition comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an agent that modifies a GM1-associated activity, wherein the agent is not coupled to an antigen.

57. A method according to claim 56 wherein the agent binds to GM1.

58. A method according to claim 56 wherein the agent reduces levels of serum antigen-specific IgE.

59. A method according to claim 56 wherein the agent is EtxB.

60. A method according to claim 56 which is a treatment for asthma.